

SCHOOL OF MISSION AND THEOLOGY  
HINDRANCES IN HELPING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



MASTER THESIS IN GLOBAL STUDIES  
30 – MATH  
BY  
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MAY 2013

## **Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank my advisor Milfrid Tonheim for her guidance and patience when I have needed it so sorely. Lieut. Colonel Geanette Seymour of the International Social Justice Commission who believed in me and showed me that my dreams were not just crazy but could become true. Friends and family far and near who have cheered me on, but most of all my wife and son – who have believed in my when I wanted to give up, supported me when I needed a boost, kicked me in the butt when I wanted to sleep and all over been the greatest encouragers I could hope for. This is for us and the victims of human trafficking.

Kristen Folde

Stavanger, May 2013

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Freedom Triumphant

*“FREEDOM TRIUMPHANT, DEATH OF SLAVERY.*

*The Constitutional Amendment Adopted, Greatest Act Since the Declaration of Independence.”*

- New York Tribune, Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> 1865.

It is commonly believed in the U.S. that slavery ended with the 13<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1865.

Sadly, there are more slaves held captured today than during the 350 years of the transatlantic slave trade put together. According to the United States Department of State, there is an estimate of 27 million slaves today (TIP-Report 2012, 7). Who are the people behind these numbers? How do they become slaves? What happens to them? Do they manage to escape their lives as slaves and what happens after a life of slavery?

My thesis question is therefore:

“What may be some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking?”

### 1.1.1. Human Trafficking Defined

‘Human trafficking’ and ‘trafficking in persons’ are umbrella terms used for all forms of modern day slavery, debt bondage or forced labor (TIP-Report 2012, page 33). It is important to note that human trafficking and slavery have the same meaning and are used interchangeably. According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) “severe forms of trafficking in persons” is defined as:

- a. sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- b. the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the

purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.  
(Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000)

It is important to note that a victim does not need to be physically transported from one location to another in order for the crime to fall within these definitions.

Human trafficking embodies many different shapes and forms. We will therefore look at some of the most common forms of slavery in order to give the reader a better understanding of human trafficking.

For many people, human trafficking is synonymous to sex trafficking. Victims of sex trafficking are often forced to work as erotic dancers, massage therapists, actors in pornographic films and work as prostitutes. They are often controlled by a pimp or a ‘boy-friend’, who forces them to have sex for money. In many cases, the sex-workers have been illegally transported from a foreign country and into a country of destination. In the U.S., a typical scenario in looking at the American sex market, would be that women are transported from e.g. Thailand to the U.S. to serve the American sex industry. There are other ways too, that Americans get hold of foreigners for the purposes of sexual exploitation. According to Kevin Bales, one of the foremost experts on human trafficking today who serves as an advisor to the UN, the U.S. and the British governments on the subject of human trafficking, sex-tourism has become a “*global epidemic*” (Bales 2009, 18). Additionally, many Americans choose to go to poorer countries where they can easily exploit victims, often times as young as four years old (Bales 2009, 18). But Americans alone are not the only people participating in the sex trafficking industry, for this is a prevailing problem in every country worldwide.

Further, child soldiers are also victims of human trafficking. Although there is little evidence of this occurring in the western world, it still remains a serious problem. In conflict infested areas like in Uganda, children are often abducted by rebel soldiers/traffickers from their families and forced to enter into combat. They are then brainwashed, tortured and brutally trained physically and mentally in order to break them (the children) down in creating them to be human killing machines. Often young girls and women are made as sex slaves to the rebel soldiers. The traffickers force all the children to commit acts of violence in front of each other and to each other such as mutilations and murder. If they fail to adhere to the traffickers

demands, they face threats of death, liming or other kinds of torture. This is a horrendous form of slavery that no one should have to go through, especially not children.

The next form of slavery is known as debt-bondage. This form of slavery is most prevalent on the sub-continent. In fact, it is believed that the largest amount of slaves today are found in this region of the world. Most of these people are held in debt-bondage, which is a form of slavery where the slave owes money to a loan giver and is paying the loan giver back through the means of labor. It could be for various reasons that the money has been loaned, but the money has to be paid back. When the loan giver demands a payback from the loan takers and the loan taker does not have money to pay back the debt, they force payment out of them by enslaving the loan taker. Often, they will have to work for the loan giver as a slave laborer which makes up all forms of work, like farming, domestic and factory work, etc. The loan giver claims that they will only give the loan taker their freedom once all the debt has been paid off. The loan takers are fully at the mercy of the loan giver and it is not uncommon that this type of slavery, debt-bondage, passes down from one generation to next within a family. It is therefore very difficult to break away from this debt-bondage when the whole family history consists of being enslaved and being at the mercy of a loan giver/slaveholder. The loan giver often deceives and takes great advantage of the loan taker by removing the people's freedom and using them as slave laborers without ever actually using their work to pay off debts as promised. The unending debt can often be exaggerated debt in an excuse for the victim to fall prey into the hands of the slaveholder and never find freedom, but remain their slave laborer always.

Further, there has been an increased number of domestic workers who end up working as house slaves in developing countries and throughout the western world. Often times these people have set out working as domestic workers i.e. nannies, house cleaners or cooks, but they end up becoming enslaved and are forced to play all of the roles mentioned. It is common that their freedom is then taken away from them and they are locked up, being unable to leave the house. As a house slave, it is not uncommon that they would also be taken advantage of sexually by their slaveholder, along with being in charge of all domestic work.

Forced labor is another area in which slavery exists. Here people are forced to perform different types of work under extreme conditions. Often times people are trafficked from one



country to another under the false promise of work along with legal immigration, good pay, housing and food. The worker would arrive in the destination country, have their passport and ID papers confiscated by the traffickers and then be forced to work inhumane hours with little or no wage. The little wage some of them may receive is used to pay off the 'debt' they owe the traffickers. Traffickers will often say that the slaves owe them money for bringing them into this new country of opportunity and that they therefore have to pay off the debt before they can have their ID and passport back. In the mean time the 'late-fee' for not paying the fake loan back on time, escalates into unattainable numbers that make it impossible for the slaves to pay back the traffickers. They are then caught and tangled in a web. Labor slaves have been found in agriculture, fishing industry, coaling mines, factories, restaurants, sweat-shops, coffee-plantation, chocolate-plantations, fashion industry, construction, circus industry, in touring artist groups etc. Labor slaves can also be promised opportunities of work and a chance to improve their life, within their own native country, and then through deception be held to work as a forced laborer by their trafficker.

Suffice it to say, human trafficking is connected to us in many different ways; the food we eat, the clothes we buy, the cars we drive, the electronic gadgets we use, the carpets we walk on, the diamonds we celebrate love with, the sneakers we wear and the chocolate we eat are just some ways that slavery is closer to us than we think. Many large companies have factories and producers down in the production line of their supply chains, which take advantage of people and hold them in forced labor, debt bondage and other forms of slavery. Such companies can provide the consumers with products for a low cost, i.e. the products mentioned above, while making huge profits and dividends. It appears that we are closer to slavery than we think. The truth is that there is slavery in nearly every industry in the world (Committee on Foreign Affairs House of Representatives 2011, 1). And the type of slave labor is only limited to the slaveholders imagination whilst new ways and methods of human trafficking are continually emerging.

### *1.1.2 Reason for Study*

There is a personal reason as to why I have chosen to undergo this study. For the longest time, I used to be ignorant about slavery and to me it was a distant reality, something that occurred in a different time and place. While growing up in school, I heard all about slavery in the time

of the transatlantic slave trade where most of the slaves were taken or bought from Africa and many being shipped over to America. This was a sad history lesson as a young boy which was hard to fathom at how people could be full of so much hatred and evil as to take away the freedom and life of another human being, all because of greed. I never imagined slavery to be existing today right under my nose and all throughout the world.

My first exposure to slavery was during my travels with my family to Thailand at the young age of twelve, but at the time I did not know that these people were actually slaves. In Koh Samui, two young teenage girls who dressed very provocatively, approached my brother and I and started flaunting themselves in hope that we would pay for sex, while an older man stood near them as if to keep watch over them. On the same trip, there was another incident when I was with my father when we were in Bangkok. A Thai man approached us with a photo album in his hand and he proceeded to show us photos of young children who were on sale for sex. They were between the ages of four to eleven. He first showed us the faces and upper body images of young little girls and said we could pick any girl of our choice for a mere \$2.00 per session. We were appalled and refused and then continued on our way to do our shopping that we had planned. When we had finished our shopping and were on our way back in the same direction, the same man approached us again and told us that if we did not want sex with little girls, then there was a huge selection of young boys. Then he deliberately showed us a photo album of young boys in the same age group.

Little did I know back then that Thailand is one of the primary destinations in the world for sex tourism and sex slavery. I will never forget those images. It was not until later on in my life that I realized what was really going on in Koh Samui and Bangkok back when I was twelve years of age. I was made aware during my years living in Sydney, Australia 6 years ago, when I met some awe inspiring people who devote their lives to spreading awareness of human trafficking and making enormous efforts to fight this great injustice. They run an organization called A21, which is a campaign with the aim of 'Abolishing slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> century'. A21 provides shelters for trafficking victims in Greece, while having offices based in a few different countries, to tirelessly spread global awareness of this modern day slavery. Greece plays a pivotal role in being an easy access point for traffickers from Asia and the Eastern European countries into Western Europe. In 2012, the A21 campaign received an honorary mention in the US State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP-

Report 2012, page 48), for their various outreach and awareness raising initiatives. A21 is responsible for opening my eyes and educating me on human trafficking and how it is taking place in this day and age. Learning that slavery actually exists today in Western countries and even in Norway, my native country, sparked a longing in me to find out who these slaves are, the extent to which slavery is happening and what happens to the people who are held as slaves? I resolved that I had to do something with the knowledge that there is slavery today and I could not just go on with my comfortable life while millions of people are held captive.

In 2010 I moved to New York City and I was interested in finding out more about human trafficking. I wanted to find out about the extent human trafficking took place in New York City, one of the world's most influential cities and also across the U.S as a whole. For the first time I was committing to doing research on my own about this issue, and it was natural to start with the big picture of human trafficking as a whole and then to refine my research as I went on. During my initial research I found that the United Nations focused on the right to an effective remedy for victims of human trafficking. However, I discovered that there was no real answer on how to best help victims of human trafficking, but there is a lot of talk about the grave injustice of human trafficking. As a result of this I decided to find out what some hindrances of helping victims of human trafficking might be. This presents us with a problem; policies, practices and theory have not been shaped by knowledge and research on the best ways to help victims of trafficking. In some instances there are no policies to implement and the victims of trafficking are put in the same programs as other victims, i.e. in my initial research I found victims of trafficking that have been rescued in the State of New York are sent to a shelter for victims of domestic violence since there are no policies or programs that are set in place for victims of trafficking.

### *1.1.3 Limitations of Study*

The topic that I have chosen to research on is regarding helping victims of human trafficking. I have limited the research in focusing on some of the United States' efforts to help victims of trafficking. I will then focus on the efforts of select service providers working in Nevada and in New York. Also, I will look at some of the implications of multinational trading in the global market place. My field-work will take place in New York City

The first limitation that I have come across is that there is very limited academic work on the topic surrounding helping victims of trafficking. I therefore have approached the topic with theories in respect to what I think might be some of those hindrances. It would be very interesting to see if those hindrances were addressed and removed, to see if they would actually translate into reality – with the result of seeing more victims of human trafficking find freedom and helped. I am in other words unable to monitor if my suggestions will have the desired outcome, even though I am quite confident that if the issues discussed in my findings chapter are addressed, we will see more victims helped.

Another limitation that I face is that this group of people often is a hidden part of the population. The ideal situation would be to speak face to face with an actual victim who is enslaved in order to find out how we can help them. But unfortunately, this is not possible to obtain. For victims who are being held in human trafficking are often kept away and hidden from the public eye. Some of the victims may be held in chains, others are locked away and never allowed to leave the room, house or factory that they are in. Whilst others may be strictly controlled with their every move being tracked. Often times they are threatened to not come into contact with the outside world and through mental and physical abuse, they are kept at bay. I also wanted to speak with survivors of human trafficking, victims who had either escaped or been rescued. However, survivors are either kept safe and hidden away in shelters, safe houses, jails or are in a holding cell while they are being investigated and questioned. Because of this, they are not easily accessible, for reasons concerning safety, rehabilitation, trust and ethical guidelines. Law enforcement officers or service providers are the people who have direct contact with the survivors and they serve as gatekeepers. A gatekeeper is a person or an organization that gives or denies access to information, organizations or people. As a researcher I am at the gatekeepers mercy, and I will have to work with them. If they will deny me access to survivors of trafficking, then talking to the gatekeepers themselves will be my plan B.

#### *1.1.4 History of human trafficking*

The history of human trafficking goes back thousands of years. The first recordings we have of slavery are from 4000 B.C. Clay drawings found in cities in Mesopotamia record how people were captured during wars and then forced into slavery by the victorious nation. The

first indication of privately owned slaves was found in Egypt some 1900 years later recording that slaves were being bought for 11 shekels (Bales 2008, 11) With the introduction of money, the selling and buying of slaves developed into an enormous business and money-making machine. There are recordings of Egyptians raiding the neighboring Syria capturing more than 1500 slaves in one season. (Kevin Bales, 2008, 11). Along with privately owned slavery came laws that stated the legal status and the worth of slaves and also protection for the slave owner. The implemented laws and conducts existed in different regions for the next 4000 years and were at the core, very similar. They empowered the slaveholder to hold onto the slaves through force and violence while making the slave into a mere ‘sub-human’ species. An example of this is the ‘Louisiana slave code’ from 1724, and it illustrates how the difference between slaves and slave holders were deep-rooted; *“XXVII. The slave who, having struck his master, his mistress, or the husband of his mistress, or their children, shall have produced a bruise, or the shedding of blood in the face, shall suffer capital punishment.”* (Louisiana's Code Noir 1724). Whereas the slave holders were encouraged to and given the right to control their slaves through violence, the laws were completely opposite for the slaves if they were to use violence against free people. Not only was slavery legal in the U.S. up until 150 years ago, but it was also encouraged and looked upon as vital in order for the economy to progress forward in the U.S.

Today the legal state of slave holding has changed from what it was 150 years ago, for today slavery is banned in every country in the world. Although slavery is illegal today, there are more slaves than there ever was before and the same tactics are used to keep the slaves controlled; violence and threat of violence. Bales says that at its most fundamental, slavery has three main elements: *“control through violence, economic exploitation, and the loss of free will.”* (Bales 2008). The common denominator here is that none of these elements require legal ownership. If a person is not able to leave his/her holder because of a threat of violence or if they are economically exploited to the point where they are not able to move freely, they are most probably caught in slavery.

#### *1.1.5 Old vs. New*

Even though there are key elements that remain the same from the old slavery to the new, perhaps the biggest difference is simply numbers. For the very first time in history there is an

abundance of potential slaves (Bales 2008). *“Nearly half the world’s population, 2.8 billion people, survive on less than \$2 a day”* (UN. 2013 Hunger), and poor people are the most vulnerable and easy prey for exploiters, traffickers. People living in poverty are living in desperate situations and are looking for a way out of their despair. The way traffickers today exploit people living in poverty is either through trickery, in offering them a false way out of their despair e.g. job offers, medical help, legal immigration papers in opportune countries, promises of education, financial loans and everything down to the basic daily needs for survival, or simply by abducting them. Traffickers are then trading these people/slaves and selling them to other criminals around the globe for a very low price, having obtained them by abduction or for a very low cost. Not only is there an enormous amount of potential slaves today, but the cost of buying a slave is much cheaper than the price of a slave when slavery was legal in the U.S. (during the transatlantic slave trade). There used to be a high purchasing price, and buying a slave was looked upon as a major investment. Bales says that a slave would cost up to 3 to 6 years of an average wage, or approximately \$150 000 - \$300 000 in today's currency. Upon such an investment, a slave would then produce an average of 5% in profit each year, for the slave owner (Bales 2000, 466). Further, in the U.S., owning slaves also used to include contracts, and the owner was held responsible in keeping and looking after his/her slaves even after they became old and were no longer resourceful. Researchers have found that only between the ages of 11 and 30, were the prime years when slaveholders managed to reap the biggest dividends from their slaves (Bales 2000, 474). Also, a slaveholder would often times own an entire family of slaves which would be made up of a few generations, and often ownership would be for life. Due to the responsibility that came with ownership of slaves, a slaveholder would therefore not make a big financial gain from slaves who were below and above the prime years.

There is a major difference in the price of a slave today. Today slaves are cheap or free and bring an enormous profit in return. For example, in India, a bonded slave laborer in agriculture can be bought for a low price and then produce a 50% profit each year. Whilst in Thailand, a young female sex slave can be bought for \$800 and then produce 800% in profit each year (Bales 2000, 468).

Slaveholders today earn an immense profit from their slaves while also not holding any responsibility to their slaves because there is no law that binds them. They can do as they

please, with the sole pursuit of making the most amount of money the fastest way possible. Victims of human trafficking live under different circumstances than the slaves from 150 years ago. The first difference is that today, slaves are held without any legal contracts and they are usually only held for a short period of time. An example is with female slaves working in the sex-industry. The traffickers will make the girls work day and night with hardly any sleep and often drugged, until the day the girls crash or catch a sexually transmitted disease. If the girls get sick, the trafficker can dump the girl on the street or kill her and then just get another slave to work as a sex slave. Slaves are not looked after by their slaveholders/traffickers, but are rather used and disposed of when they are no longer deemed profitable.

Bales compares the use of modern day slaves to that of old, to computers: When computers first were made, they cost a fortune to buy and run, therefore it was only the very rich or the government that could afford to have one. These days you can buy a used computer for just 100USD and if it breaks down in two years time you can simply toss it in the garbage and buy a new one. Much the same way it is with slaves these days; before it was a major investment to buy a slave, more like a house or a car investment, but these days it is more like buying a cheap computer. After you get the most use out of the computer, if it begins to fall apart in a couple of years, you can just get rid of it and get a new one for a cheap price. In the same way, slaves have now become disposable. When they are not as profitable as they used to be, i.e. they get sick or old, they can be thrown out and replaced with a new slave. This highlights the decreasing value of a person who is a slave today (their purchasing price) compared to 150 years ago in the transatlantic slave trade. I have chosen to draw on an illustration from Bales' book 'Ending Slavery', that gives a good comparison of the new and the old slavery:

#### *Old Slavery*

Legal ownership asserted  
High purchase cost  
Low profits  
Shortage of potential slaves  
Long-term relationship  
Slaves maintained  
Ethnic difference important

#### *New Slavery*

Legal ownership avoided  
Very low purchase cost  
Very high profits  
Surplus of potential slaves  
Short-term relationship  
Slaves disposable  
Ethnic difference not important

All these factors give the modern slaveholders an advantage over the slaveholders of old and it should come as no surprise that approximately 700 000 people are trafficked internationally annually, while approximately 50 000 women and children (not including men) are trafficked into the United States every year (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000). As stated earlier, it is not necessary for someone to be physically transported from one country to another in order for it to be considered trafficking and some organizations estimate that approximately 250 000 American children are in the danger zone of becoming sex-slaves in their own country (Richard J. Estes and Neil Alan Weiner, 13).

Many people are getting rich by using slaves for slavery is a lucrative business and the number of slaves just keeps increasing at an exponential rate. This is modern day slavery with the main focus of huge profits and dirt cheap lives, and once they have finished using up the human beings, their slaves, they can simply throw them out in the garbage (Bales 1999, 4).

## **1.2 Structure**

I have decided to structure this thesis starting with this Introduction chapter which will give a clear reason as to why I chose to undergo this research project in the first place, while also providing a clear background of the history of human trafficking. Following this chapter will be the methodology chapter where I will explain the different methodologies and processes I used and underwent in order to gather my findings to sufficiently answer the research question. It will mainly consist of explaining the qualitative research approaches that I used as well as challenges that I encountered and the solutions needed to solve those issues. Following the methodology chapter will be the theory chapter, where we will explore globalization theory and lay its foundation which has been a fundamental guide as I gathered my findings. In the findings chapter we will discuss some of the findings that I gathered during my research, more specifically we will look at some interviews that were conducted as well as desk studies that will shed further light on hindrances to helping victims of human trafficking.

I will finish the thesis with a conclusion chapter that will summarize my research project, highlighting my findings as well as point out possible topics for further research.





## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

In this chapter I will describe the methods I employed to conduct my research to effectively answer my thesis question. I will look at how these methods were implemented in my research design and what instruments I used in order to conduct my research. I will also discuss the limitations and hindrances I encountered along the way and the changes and solutions incorporated in order to obtain the material needed in order to conduct my research. I will find that there was a great need for flexibility, both in time and in methodology as the research consisted of studying a hidden population, the victims of human trafficking. Moreover, since trafficking in persons is a violation against human rights, I will mention the ethical considerations necessary to follow in order to conduct research in such a field. The thesis question is “*What may be some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking?*”

### 2.2 Research Ethics

#### 2.2.1 Ethical Guidelines

Ethics serve as a vital road map to any researcher. There are different ethical principles that are set by the institution or organization through which one chooses to convey research through. It is the researcher’s responsibility to always follow the ethical code of conduct of that organization to ensure that the research is done according to the given guidelines.

The School of Mission and Theology (MHS), which adhere to the Norwegian Social Science Data Services (NSD), have set the parameter for me in my research. As I will discuss later in this chapter, my research consisted of collaborating with people of very sensitive backgrounds and those who in some manner were interconnected with them. It is a challenge to conduct research amongst victims of human trafficking because at all times I have to be sensitive to their safety and make sure that I do not convey any information that can be traced back to the victims. Further, this research is different than commencing a research on e.g. how the new Volvo compares to the new Toyota car, as the information that I reveal in and through this

research can have direct implication on people's lives. It is therefore my moral obligation to ensure their safety by complying with NSD's rules.

As a result the NSD are particularly concerned with the storage and safety of the data that was collected. I need to guarantee that all of my information gathered, such as interviews, reports, sources, names and locations that could be traced back to any of my research objects, are held in a secure location. Firstly, I am holding my documents on one single, password protected computer. I have also password protected my files so that no one will be able to access my files either. Further I have chosen not to disclose the names of any of the interviewees so that they can not be traced. Finally, upon the completion of my dissertation, the NSD requires that all data will be destroyed.

### *2.2.2 Letter of Information*

I am also composing a 'Letter of Information' to hand out to the people I intend to interview. This letter will contain information about me and my research. Further the letter will state that the information they will provide or reveal to me will not be traced back to them, as their names will not be found in any of the documents that I have. What is more, the document will declare the rights of the participants and will state that, if they are to change their minds, permitted to request, all data that was made available to me can be terminated and that I will comply to their request. In addition, that at the completion of the dissertation all the material that I have been given, will be terminated. The participants will also be informed that the information will be used in a master thesis and will then be submitted to MHS and be stored in their library upon completion. It must be noted that I will not include a section that will explain the potential risks that the participants could encounter from letting themselves be interviewed, as I have determined to only interview people over the age of 18 and therefore will entrust them to make their own decision. However, the letter will include contact information of both my research-advisor and myself, whom they are encouraged to contact if they are to have any questions regarding their own safety, my research or any other related questions. The letter will conclude with a consent form to ensure that both parties agree with the ethical standards that are listed in the letter.

In addition to the NSD's ethical code of conduct, the organizations I have set out to examine/ interview have to follow state-laws and have their own strict guidelines set in place, in order to protect their own institution and/or the people in their programs. These guidelines may very well serve as a hindrance for the participants being able to talk freely with me and thus can limit my data collection. The state-laws that some of my interviewees have to abide by may prevent them from speaking openly on some of the topics I will question them on as it can put them in conflict with their employer. Further they are unable to connect me with various survivors of trafficking as state-laws hinder them in revealing such sensitive information. Moreover, the organizations may have guidelines that can hinder me in talking to victims. One example is with a restraint that I have encountered thus far in that I was very close to conducting an interview with a trafficking victim who had entered into a shelter in Las Vegas, when two days before the interview was scheduled, the shelter informed me that the interview was no longer going to be held. The victim was in need of attending a drug rehabilitation program and therefore the scheduled interview would not take place. Since shelters and other organizations will always have to consider what is best for their 'clients' first, this resulted in me having to spend more time on finding willing contributors to my research.

## **2.3 Methodology**

There are primarily two types of research methodology that one can use, quantitative and qualitative. According to Robert Donmoyer, quantitative research "refers to approaches to empirical inquiry that collect, analyze, and display data in numerical rather narrative form." (Donmoyer 2008, 714) Quantitative research aims to gather data and measure a statistic within a chosen population or group of interest. Data is collected through performing surveys, to examine cause and effect relationships or to find if there is an overall consensus on a certain topic or issue. An example where a quantitative research method would be highly effective is in doing a *Generalizability* research, e.g. doing a survey of what percentage of the population listens to pop music. The key elements needed are a large amount of people willing to participate in the survey and only through analyzing and comparing the data would the researcher be able to come up with a substantial conclusion. If the researcher collected a low amount of answers, then the results would be considered low or insufficient (Donmoyer 717,718). Quantitative research is dependent upon the majority of participants answering the questions. The researcher can then be able to collect the data and compare it and the results

can then be measurable in numbers. In the example listed above, it could read; 76.4% of the population listens to pop music while 23.6% do not.

### *2.3.1 Qualitative Research*

The second type of research methodology is qualitative research. Qualitative research is exploratory at heart in that it allows the researcher flexibility (Hammersley and Atkinson 2007) to examine the research objects in its natural environment. According to Julian M. Murchison, in qualitative, the researcher is not being a distant observer but collecting data and gaining insight through primary sources and firsthand involvement with informants or the research objects (Murchison 2010). In a lecture that Mariann Skjortnes held in March of 2011, she emphasized that when the researcher begins their research, they are not to have a fixed research structure, but rather be open to what is required in that specific situation (Skjortnes 2011). Flexibility is thus a very important value. It leaves room for the researcher to adapt to the situations that may present themselves during the research process.

I have mentioned some of the challenges that I have faced and can face in my research, and if I do not adapt a flexible attitude, I may very well get stuck and be unable to progress forward in my research, and finally not be able to answer the research question. Hugh Gusterson (Gusterson 2008) says that it can be difficult to try and record people in their natural environment because access to their environment is not always attainable. An example he gives is of Paul Stroller who attempted to conduct a study on the world of magician-healers in Niger. The healers did not accept him and for a long time he was excluded from their environment. Until one day, a bird defected on his head in front of the magician-healers—which they then interpreted and viewed as their sign that Stroller was supposed to be an apprentice. (Gusterson 2008) Paul Stroller was then able to record an accurate account of the world of the magician-healers of Niger. This shows that the qualitative research method allowed the researcher to flexibly adapt to his situation and then conduct his research accordingly.

## **2.4 Initial Research design**

My initial research topic was ‘Human Trafficking in New York’. This was a topic that greatly

interested me and it seemed as though there was little knowledge available to the general public on this topic. I therefore began a pursuit to find the extent at which Human Trafficking took place in New York. I lived in NYC for a few years since the beginning of my dissertation and living and residing in NYC gave me high hopes of gaining access to victims of human trafficking and to those in close contact with victims.

In choosing a research method, I found that using a qualitative methodological approach would be most beneficial in gaining an understanding of Human Trafficking in N.Y. because I knew from the issues discussed earlier in the chapter, that I am in need of a flexible method to guide me in my quest. Guri Tyldum and Anette Brunovskis (2005) point out in their study of methodological challenges when studying victims of human trafficking, that simply because of the nature of what these people are going through or have gone through, it is very difficult to get to talk to them;

“Research in the field of human trafficking is difficult for many reasons. Perhaps the most challenging factor is that most of the populations relevant to the study of human trafficking, such as prostitutes, traffickers, victims/survivors, or illegal immigrants constitute so-called hidden populations. A hidden population is a group of individuals for whom the size and boundaries are unknown, and for whom no sampling frame exists. Furthermore, membership in hidden populations often involves stigmatized or illegal behavior, leading individuals to refuse to cooperate, or give unreliable answers to protect their privacy (Heckathorn, 1997). For empirical studies, this brings other challenges, and requires approaches different from those commonly used for more easily observable populations.” (Tyldum and Brunovskis 2005).

## **2.5 Data Collection**

In September and October of 2011, I interned with the Salvation Army International Social Justice Commission (ISJC) in New York City. The ISJC works closely with the United Nations and civil society at the United Nations head quarters in New York. While the ISJC focuses on injustice in every way, shape or form, one of their main focuses is on human trafficking on a national and global level. Through my internship I had access to the UN and was apart of discussions with the special rapporteur to the UN on human trafficking, involved

in civil society discussions on human trafficking as well as panel discussions with ambassadors, missions and non-governmental organizations on the connection between rural women, the girl-child and human trafficking. In addition, I was connected to a lawyer/Coordinator of the New York State Human Trafficking Program who played a pivotal role in writing the report by the Interagency Task Force on the *“Implementation of the 2007 law”*. I was also in contact with a lawyer from the City Bar Justice center working with the Immigrant Women and Children Project and conducted interviews with both of these people. These interviews were conducted in a semi-structured manner which opened up for me to ask the interviewees questions as different topics appeared during the interview. As this point of my research, I was in the preliminary stage, and the interviews served to be very effective in gaining a broad understanding of human trafficking. Both interviewees are gatekeepers who work with victims first hand. The insight and help received through their interviews have been pivotal for my research and findings.

I continued to stay in touch with the interviewees and have had some ongoing conversations with them specifically regarding the legal rights of trafficking victims. I highly regard these interviews for they are very essential in my research, as having lawyers that work on human trafficking cases provides an extensive, first hand knowledge on victims of human trafficking. Their knowledge of what some hindrances to helping victims of trafficking are, is extensive. In being defenders of justice, they have an in-depth knowledge of the pros and cons of the law concerning the human rights of the trafficking victims. Considering then, that the implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000, which has been highly controversial and has been criticized for being persecution oriented and not victims centered, their views will be very important to the research. For instance, in order for a victim that was trafficked into the U.S. be given a visa which would allow them to stay in the United States, the victim is required to participate in the persecution of their trafficker. For a victim to face his or her trafficker head on in court, risking, not only their own life but also their families lives, is extremely traumatic for the victim. One of the weaknesses with interviewing lawyers is that perhaps, even though they are physically close to the people who have been trafficked, there could be a sort of mechanical approach to the cases, as it is their job. Nonetheless, these interviews gave me a great perspective on the law and what the state of New York has pledged to do, in order to better help victims of trafficking.

Furthermore, I was introduced to the “Against Child Trafficking Group” at New York University (NYU). I became a member of this group, which met on a regular basis. This group invited different experts on human trafficking to come and participate in panel discussions, and deliver talks and presentations, on how to help victims as well as solutions to end this horrendous crime. It was informative as it was very much a ‘grass-root’ movement and innovative solutions on how to best help victims were presented. Another great aspect in being apart of such a group was that I was able to meet and listen to a great variety of activists that work with victims of trafficking. Additionally, I attended screenings of human trafficking documentaries and attended discussions with the directors and panel experts that took place after the screening. During my fieldwork, I used recording devices for the purpose of analyzing and comparing interviews, and memory sticks to collect data. I also kept a journal during my fieldwork, to document my thoughts, concerns and vital findings. While being submersed in the anti-human trafficking arena in NY, I undertook further research by reading an extensive amount of literature such as newspapers, articles, books, journals, testimonials and reports on trafficking in NY as well as on a national and international level. For after analyzing the data I had collected in the field, I came to the conclusion that I was not able to rely on empirical data alone in order to answer my thesis, and therefore I have chosen to supplement my research with the implementation of a desk-study.

Having gathered data that confirmed the existence of human trafficking in New York at a large scale, I found that human trafficking turned out to be a far more complex issue than I first thought. While realizing that the research topic of my choice was too broad in the first place, there were also many limitations gathering substantial data to best answer my initial research question with only focusing in on N.Y. So I decided to re-focus and narrow down my research to one focal area within the whole human trafficking trade, but instead of just the extent of it within in N.Y., I would focus on the U.S. and also partly through a global lens.

## **2.6 Final Research Design**

As a result of my findings in my initial research design, I came up with a refined research question; ‘What may be some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking?’ It was through attending one of the discussions with the special rapporteur to the UN on Human Trafficking, *‘The right to an effective remedy for victims of Human Trafficking’* where the lack



of help for victims of human trafficking was discussed. It became clear to me that many people are not receiving the help they deserve and this helped guide me to the final research question; “What may be some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking?”

## **2.7 Data Collection**

On my mission to answer the new thesis question I determined to exercise a qualitative approach. The interviews and data that I have conducted and gathered in my initial research will still be of vital use, for they hold substantial information as to what might be some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking. Further I have been able to interview additional service providers, a shelter director based in Nevada as well as e-mail correspondence with another organization working with helping victims of trafficking. The correspondence conducted over e-mail was a semi-structured interview, as I had laid out some questions for them to answer. However, the respondent chose to answer me in a more open way than just the questions asked. Through the e-mail conversation I was fortunate enough to obtain one of their training manuals on how to help victims of trafficking. The interview with the shelter director was conducted over Skype, a computer video-chat software. It was a semi-structured interview as well, which made room for a flexible interview. The interview with the shelter director in Nevada was especially informative, as the shelter housed victims of trafficking that had recently escaped or had been rescued from their slaveholder. This was a huge breakthrough for me because as I have emphasized earlier, various organizations and people were reluctant to trust me and reveal sensitive information about their programs. In contrast, this shelter director was very open to being interviewed and was willingly talking about their program. Shelters often serve as the first point of contact for victims and therefore they know from a practical experience what is needed in order to help victims of human trafficking. Since the shelter director would know what is needed to help victims, the director would also be able to shed light on what can be potential hindrances in helping victims. The interview has turned into an on-going conversation and the insight into this has been paramount to my research.

The purpose of the interviews was to find out about what might be hindering us in helping victims of human trafficking. Initially I set out to interview survivors of trafficking because who would better know how we can help victims of trafficking than people who have actually

experienced this violation first hand? However, it turned out to be a difficult task. First of all, victims of human trafficking are a hidden part of the population and finding them therefore is a very difficult task. Secondly, the lawyers, shelter and organizations that I was in contact with had to follow their own ethical guidelines, which in turn limited my access to survivors of trafficking. Each organization was required to protect the lives of all personnel, and survivors, keeping them safe and unknown to the public. Furthermore, in order to fully rely on empirical data requires a few more participants than what I was able to obtain. Therefore, in addition to including the empirical data in my findings, I now had to perform a significant desk-study.

At this point in my studies I moved out of the USA and back to Norway. It was then that I started to rely more on a desk study approach to continue to inform my thesis. In my desk study I collected and examined existing material written by researchers before me. While in Norway, I got in touch with the Polaris Project, a non-governmental organization based out of Washington D.C. They work on the human trafficking issue on a national level. The Polaris Project started the only National Human Trafficking Hotline, run awareness campaigns, have a national human trafficking resource center and even develop and train up other organizations in their fight to end slavery and rebuild the lives of trafficking victims.

For the remainder of my desk study I examined and dissected the data I obtained in my field study. In addition to this, I continued to read more articles, journal and books on the issue of human trafficking.

## **2.8 Concluding Methodology**

In this chapter we have looked at the different methods I have used in order to carry out my research and effectively answer my thesis topic/question. There has been several different methods employed, but all of them started out with the same methodology – qualitative. We have also discussed the major limitations I encountered in my methodological approaches.

Initially, my thesis topic was '*Human Trafficking in New York*'. I had set up a research design in my pursuit to discover trafficking in persons in New York, to see to what extent at which it took place. While doing my fieldwork, interning with the ISJC, having open access to the UN, I fully immersed myself in the anti-human trafficking arena and have continued to stay

actively connected with some of the contacts I made there. Throughout this time, I had collected a substantial amount of data that confirmed that human trafficking does occur to a large extent in New York. It was during this time that my eyes were opened to the enormity and complexity of human trafficking and I realized that my thesis topic was too broad and in need of sharpening. All the data I had collected in my initial research design was a strong foundation and a launching pad to fine-tune my thesis into this question; *'What may be some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking?'*.

I am grateful that I used a qualitative research methodology, as it was confirmed throughout my research that I needed a flexible approach, which allowed me to adapt to any situation. Starting out with one research question and having to change to a different one was only possible with a qualitative methodology. I have conducted four interviews that will help inform me in my thesis question. However, after spending a substantial amount of time in pursuing to interview even more people about this horrendous crime but having no additional success, I realized that I was in need of combining my empirical studies with a desk-study. In regards to ethics, I have been able to follow the code of conduct set by my institution and also follow the guidelines employed by the different organizations and institutions I have been in contact with.



### 3. Theory

The purpose of a theory chapter is to serve as a guideline for the researcher in his/her studies. A theoretical framework is pivotal in leading the researcher in the direction they must take to answer the research question adequately. This theory chapter will serve as a backdrop in which all the data that I have collected, will be measured up against. The theory that I have chosen to use as my guide is Globalization. Globalization theory is a huge subject in itself, and there are many different aspects and views. I will first define globalization generally in order to get an overview of this broad subject. Then, I will focus on two key aspects of globalization theory, which are international trade/global expansion and migration. I will then use these aspects as guidelines in the Findings chapter to help paint a clear picture of how globalization and human trafficking are interrelated. By understanding the connection between globalization and human trafficking, we will discover some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking.

#### 3.1 Globalization

Globalization is a widely discussed topic today. There are several different definitions of globalization whilst there is no universally accepted definition (Robertson and White 2007, 54). Perhaps the reason for this is that we are living right in the midst of globalization.

I have chosen to use a definition by Anthony Giddens, that I find is true for all its intents and purposes;

“Globalization can thus be defined as the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa” (Giddens 1990, 64).

This definition highlights how intricately connected the world has become. Giddens

elaborates further how what happens in a local neighborhood in any city in the world is most probably influenced by monetary factors that took place somewhere indefinitely far away. This is exemplified by how the economy might go up in a local neighborhood in Singapore, whilst through a complicated labyrinth, it is somehow related to the downsizing of a company in rural Pennsylvania (Gidden 1990). Suffice it to say that the world has become more connected than before as the actions of a local community and the economy in one nation, can have a direct implication on the quality of life for people who live on the opposite side of the world.

Furthermore, Paul Virilio explains this new trade globalization;

“Today, with the new policy of trade globalization, the city is foregrounded once more. As one of humanity’s major historic forms, the metropolis provides a focus for the vitality of the nations of the globe. But this **local city** is now only a **district**, one borough among others of the invisible **world meta-city** whose ‘centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere’” (Virilio 2005, 8).

Virilio is here describing how globalization has made the world smaller than what it once was. In this definition of globalization Virilio is using the city, an example of how something that has traditionally been the center point of a community, consisting of boroughs and neighborhoods, and through globalization has changed the function of the metropolis which is now acting as a borough within the world meta-city. In other words, the world has now become smaller and all cities are interconnected through various means of technology. Virilio further clarifies this view when he says that we are seeing an ‘end to geography’ (Virilio 2005, 9).

Another aspect that walks hand in hand with the end of geography is the collapse of time. It is now possible to reach the other side of the world through aircraft within 24 hours. Technology has also made it possible to stay in touch with family and friends on the other side of the world through internet, web camera, phone calls, mobile phones and e-mails where as before this was only possible through letters.

All this technology that we see in the modern world, in this collapse of time and space, has further paved way for the ability to freely trade across borders and states - this is perhaps one

of the key characteristics of modern globalization.

### **3.2 International Trade and Global Financial Expansion**

Globalization has brought with it an increase in international trade and global financial expansion. International trade consists of companies that expand their market place to trading with people and other companies located in different places in the world. Through the collapse of time and space it has become easier for companies to develop and expand their business.

The point of all business is to make money. So, if a company based in the U.S. can get better products/raw materials for a cheaper amount of money somewhere else other than in the U.S, then it is no wonder that they would turn their attention that way. An investor will always look for the place in which he or she will get the largest profit margin. Globalization has made this 'search' for cheaper labor and cheaper raw materials easier.

According to Jan Aart Scholte, globalization has "unfolded at greatest speed, on greatest scale, to greatest extents, and with greatest impacts since the middle of the twentieth century." (Scholte, 2005, 8). One example in which this is demonstrated is with the increase in multinational companies that trade across borders. This increase of multinational companies and transnational trade is supported by a recent philosophy that claims how freedom is found "in the form of unfettered circulation of capital and goods." (Tony Schirato and Jen Webb 2005, Understanding Globalization, 218) Further it "aspires to the liberation of money and entrepreneurship from social contexts and their obligations." (Schirato and Webb 2005, 218.)

Antonio calls this philosophy a new economic global regime (Antonio 2007) that touches billions of people worldwide (Alfredo and Johnston 2005,1) for the promotion of free world trade (Antonio 2007).

In a hearing for the Committee on Ways and Means (U.S. Congress 2007), it was stated that this increase in international trade and economic expansion are results of a handful of key events that have taken place. According to this hearing, the first reason is due to the

development and outspread of technology which has significantly reduced costs of communication and transportation. Secondly, the end of the cold war and China's movement towards a market economy opened up markets and increased the ability for multinational companies to keep growing. Thirdly, is the removal of barriers to trade through several different trade negotiations, e.g. in the European Union or the North American Free Trade Agreement. These negotiations have opened the doors for a global economy, and evidence suggests that where economies have opened for international trade, their economies have grown.

Francis Fukuyama further elaborates on the importance of the second and third aspect - the end of the cold war and international trading agreements. Fukuyama served as the deputy director of the U.S State Department's policy planning staff right after the cold war (the fall of the iron-curtain) ended and in his very well respected thesis called 'End of History', he states how "he could no longer see humanity develop a better governing method than the one presently displayed in the U.S" (Fukuyama 1989).

### *3.2.1 North/South Relations*

The North/South relationship is a picture of how there is an inequality in the world. The North represents the developed countries in the world; North America, Western-Europe, South-Korea, Japan, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. The South is the rest of the world. business' in the north own 95% of multinational business and keep all the money themselves

## **3.3 Migration**

Migration is another aspect of globalization that I have chosen to focus on. Migration is the movement of people whether it be domestically in a country or internationally between countries. According to the International Migration Organization (IMO 2013) there are 214 million international migrants in the world today. That is a spectacular growth from the year 2000 when there was an estimate of 150 million international migrants (IMO 2013). To give a good comparison and indication of the economic contribution these people make, this population would constitute the 5th largest country in the world (IOM 2013). In fact, the World Bank estimates that there was a remittance of 440 billion US. dollars in 2010 (World



Bank 2011). This has huge implications on the global market and for developing nations, e.g. Tajikistan receives 35.1% of their national GDP through remittance sent back into the country by migrants (World Bank 2011). Most migrants are migrating for economic reasons, not political, and wish to make a better future for themselves as well as their close ones.

Globalization with its new technology, the collapse of time and space has together with the fall of the iron-curtain and successful trade negotiations been pivotal in paving a way for people to migrate. Right after the iron-curtain fell, nations such as Russia, who used to have a policy that prohibited Russians to move out of the country, would now open up the borders and encourage migration as they regarded remittance an important aspect in boosting the Russian economy. On the other side of this there were the receiving nations of migrants. The increase of international migration has caused immigration laws to change. Often times, a receiving nation will only take in migrants on the condition that they are skillful workers so that they will in turn 'give back' to their new country/community. In an under-developed nation like Guyana, the WorldBank (2011) estimates that 89% of the tertiary-educated population will emigrate to a more developed nation. Suffice it to say that there are opportunities to make more money in developed countries for the tertiary-educated population. It is also in the developed country's interest to recruit the 'resourceful' migrants.

Different countries treat migrants differently. Many countries, including the United States have changed the conditions on which to get a visa. There is particularly one condition that has tightened the US. border even more - the terrorist attack on New York and the Pentagon, September 11th 2001. After these attacks the immigration became about 'Homeland Security', and since most of the terrorists that were behind these attacks were in the United States legally, there has been a tightening of immigration laws to make sure that this does not happen again (Kim J. Mallie 2011).

People who live in desperate situations are willing to take risks in order to make a better future for themselves and their families. Even if it means getting into a country illegally in search for work. The recent tightening in immigration law is something that can easily 'capture' these desperate people and traffickers will use this immigration law to threaten their victims.

### 3.4 Downside of Globalization

Globalization does not only bring with it ‘fame and fortune’; there is also a flip side to the coin. With the ever increasing economic expansion that we see, investors are interested in making the most amount of money. It is therefore common that they will then outsource and conduct business on the other side of the planet in order to lower the production costs and push the prices from their suppliers down. This leads to an intricate web of supply chains, where the possibility of people being taken advantage of are immense. People are more easily exploited because they only have a short window of opportunity to capitalize on business deals before the investors move on. The inequality between poor and rich are thus getting bigger and bigger and the result is that people on the down side of the chain are more easily exploited by people on the top of the chain/those in power.

This wave of economic expansion is easily rideable and it is no surprise that the criminal world also has the removal of barriers with open access to the flow of free trade and international business relations. Through this, criminals have generated an enormous money machine, especially through Human Trafficking (the trading of people)- the world’s second largest crime (UNHCR 2013). But there are other areas too where criminals are wanting to ride this new wave of globalization and economic expansion - crime is after all, often times, after the same thing - economic expansion.

One example is how Europol recently released a press statement of how Mexican drug cartels are wanting to take over the European drug market. There are reports that the cartels have, not only entered into the European drug market, but also started trafficking women from Eastern Europe to Mexico for the illegal sex trade (Europol 2013). It should come as no surprise then that these are not the only criminals and traffickers that have started taking advantage of the ever growing phenomenon of globalization. The collapse of time and space together with the advancement of technology has not only made it more easy for people to migrate and move between countries, but this is also something that criminals would like to exploit e.g. the capturing, harboring and transporting of people for the purposes of slave trade.

In the U.S government, some of the roles of the departments interchange which led to a significant impact in the handling of immigrants. In 1940, it was the Department of Labor that

held responsibility for immigration - which was then a workers' issue. Today it is the Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration which thus changed from being a workers' issue to a strict enforcement and terrorism issue (Mallie 2011). Ergo, the U.S Homeland Security now views immigrants as intruders and no longer as people who can 'give back' to society. The implications for people seeking a brighter future are obvious. If a family in a less developed country is being approached by a business or a recruiter with the promise of great work, great living arrangements and visas already taken care of, it is hard to find any reasons not to jump on this opportunity. Sadly what often happens is that these people will have their paperwork confiscated upon arrival in the U.S and forced into different kinds of slave labor. If they manage to escape, the Homeland Security tends to look at these people as criminals and not as victims who need help.

We can conclude that the ever increasing phenomenon of globalization has implications on almost every person on the planet. It is a very complicated phenomenon with many aspects, but I believe in understanding the aspects of International Trade/Global Expansion and Migration that it paints a clear contextual background of how international crime e.g. the trafficking in persons can thrive and take advantage of globalization. Our globalized world acts as a breeding ground for the trafficking in persons for the purposes of exploitation of people for forced labor, slavery, sex-trafficking etc. which is something we will investigate further on in this thesis.



## 4. FINDINGS

### 4.1 Introduction

In this chapter I will present my findings and discuss what I have gathered in order to best answer my research question, “What are some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking?”. I have conducted qualitative research using mostly desk studies along with some empirical studies. I performed three interviews: interview 1 and 2 were with lawyers working specifically on cases with victims of human trafficking in New York; interview 3 was with a shelter director in Las Vegas. Also, I have chosen to carefully study migration, Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), some subsidiary laws and reports within the TVPA, supply chains in multinational companies, and private service providers. I specifically chose to do extensive research within these areas because I found them to reveal some major hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking. I will point out some hindrances on a global scale all the way down to a local level. In my previous chapter I laid a foundation of globalization theory, which are foundational in understanding this chapter.

### 4.2 Migration

The United States, being a nation that is built on immigration, accepts more immigrants than any other country in the world and in 2007, with a percentage of 12.6, there were over 38 million foreign-born citizens in the US. In addition to this, there is also a large illegal population that is estimated to being around 5 million people and growing by around 250 000 annually (USA Embassy. 2013). With the sheer amount of people migrating, it is safe to say that migration has a huge impact on the global arena and countries have in turn had to adapt accordingly. One of these adjustments that have been made and that have a direct impact on migrants are immigration laws. It has become more difficult to enter into the U.S. and get a permanent residence on the basis of work only. With immigration, it is a general notion that nations on the receiving end of migration want to have immigrants that can ‘give back’ into the society or migrants who can do jobs that they need them to do and thus fill a spot where the given society is lacking.

Different countries treat migrants differently, and the United States has changed the conditions on which to get a visa. In the U.S government, the roles of the departments interchanged which led to a significant impact in the handling of immigrants. In 1940, it was the Department of Labor that held responsibility for immigration, which was then a workers' issue. Today it is the Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration which thus changed from being a workers' issue to a strict enforcement and terrorism issue (Mallie 2011). The terrorist attack on New York and the Pentagon on September 11th 2001, plays a significant role in the way immigration is handled and in the tightening of the U.S. border. Ergo, the U.S Homeland Security now views immigrants as intruders and no longer as people who can 'give back' to society. After these attacks immigration became about 'Homeland Security' and since most of the terrorists that were behind these attacks were in the United States legally, there has been a tightening of immigration laws to make sure that this does not happen again (Kim J. Mallie 2011).

People who live in desperate situations are willing to take risks in order to make a better future for themselves and their families, even if it means getting into a country illegally in search for work and a new life. With the ever increasing difference between the North and the South, people from the South are desperate to seek a brighter future in the North, in this instance the U.S. Ann Jordan says that, *"irrational, non-transparent, restrictive immigration laws force people who migrate to escape poverty, civil wars, familial violence or persecution into the hands of criminals who too often are human traffickers."* (Jordan).

During my field research I conducted interviews with lawyers based in New York (Interviewee 1 and 2), who work directly on cases with trafficking victims. In my interview with Interviewee 2, I asked about the relationship between migration and human trafficking. The answer was very intriguing seen in the light of the above:

"There is a real crack down on immigration that has compelled people to seek migration in other ways. When you see crackdowns at borders people are so desperate for a better life that they will try to get into the country a different way. There is a pretty clear connection between migration and trafficking."

Traffickers are very aware of the tightened U.S immigration laws and use this to their advantage, in that they often offer false job offers and a false promise of legal immigration papers to desperate aspiring immigrants, who are seeking to escape their impoverished state and settle in the U.S. At the same time, many people will often seek to take desperate measures in trying to get across and into U.S. borders and can easily get ‘captured’ by traffickers. On the other hand, there are a number of immigrants who are migrating legally for economic reasons and solely wish to make a better future for themselves as well as their loved ones, who also become an easy target. This can often be the case since migrating to a completely new country brings many challenges with it and puts people in fragile situations such as, not knowing the new country’s conditions, laws, language, culture, political system, lack of a social network, lack of jobs and housing. All of these vulnerabilities can be taken advantage of by traffickers.

#### **4.3 TVPA: Trafficking Victims Protection Act**

“Because this crime undermines the most basic human rights, protection services must be considered just as important as investigating and prosecuting the offenders.” (TIP-Report 2012, 10)

The United States has responded to the increasing number of migrants and heightened awareness of human trafficking by renewing the existing human trafficking laws due to malfunctions as according to themselves, *“Existing laws often fail to protect victims of trafficking, and because victims are often illegal immigrants in the destination country, they are repeatedly punished more harshly than the traffickers themselves.”* As a result, the United States introduced a new law, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000, in order to protect victims of human trafficking and they have reauthorized the TVPA several times until the year 2008. This new law on human trafficking is meant to deal with the many new aspects of human trafficking that has risen with modernization and globalization with the victims in the center of the law. The TVPA was introduced because the previous existing laws often times failed to protect the victims of trafficking and made them perpetrators instead of victims. Implicitly then, it is understood that the victims were previously not in the center of the old law.

### 4.3.1 T-Visa

The TVPA brings a framework to bring an end to human trafficking on a national, state and local level. According to the TVPA, there is an estimated 50 000 women and children trafficked into the United States yearly (keep in mind, this number does not include men). This led to the implementation of the T-Visa, the Trafficking Visa. The purpose of the T-Visa is to both prosecute traffickers but also to protect victims of trafficking. The law then has a dual purpose which will perhaps be at conflict with each other at times. The T-Visa opens up for protecting victims who might be under severe threat if they return to their home country. The T-visa came with a cap, only 5000 of these visas were allowed to be handed out each year. Although the State Department says that there are approximately 50 000 people trafficked into the U.S. annually, they still consider the 5000 visa cap to be sufficient.

In my interview with Interviewee 1, this topic came up;

“5000 visas can be issued each year. Only 2000 have been issued the last 10 years. I don’t think the law is serving its purpose. The law has a dual purpose, prosecution and protection. But it is mostly weighted towards prosecution.”

The 2012 TIP-report backs this information up and says that from 2002 until 2012, less than 2500 T-visas have been issued. (2012 TIP-Report, 15). Interviewee 1’s view regarding the law being prosecution centered is further backed up by Taina Bien-Aimé and Leah Rutman in the book *Lawyer’s Manual on Human Trafficking* (Bien-Aimé and Rutman. 2011, 70-71);

“Only a victim of a “severe form of trafficking” may receive benefits. “Secondly adult victims must cooperate with law enforcement efforts, since benefits are only available to victims who are “willing to assist in every reasonable way in the investigation and prosecution of severe forms of trafficking in persons.”” “Thirdly, all applicants for benefits must receive certificating from law enforcement officials attesting to the required level of cooperation.””

The State Department further elaborates on the requirements needed to obtain a T-Visa:



“These eligibility requirements include demonstrating by credible evidence that the individual was a victim of human trafficking, is present in the United States on account of that trafficking, and is willing to cooperate with law enforcement in prosecuting traffickers (except for minors or especially traumatized victims), and that the victim would suffer extreme hardship, including severe and unusual harm, if removed from the United States. (2012 TIP-Report, 15)”

These are the many prerequisites that victims have to meet in order to receive any help. There are many shortcomings in this law, which leads me to many questions and concerns. What is considered to be a ‘severe’ form of trafficking? Are not all forms of trafficking severe? How can the victims get a certification from a law enforcement official to attest that they have cooperated in the prosecution process of traffickers, when most law enforcement officials do not even know how to identify victims of human trafficking? Additionally, according to the law, the victim has to prove that he or she will suffer extreme hardship and unusual harm if removed from the U.S. This is a very odd requirement considering that many of these people ended up in the U.S. exactly because they were trafficked from their home country and it is obvious that if they would be put back in the same place as they came from, there is a high risk of them being trafficked again. Moreover, victims of human trafficking are the only victims that have to prove that they are in the danger-zone of having the crime being committed to them again, before they are able to receive help. Trafficking victims are treated differently from i.e rape victims, who receive help first and then are questioned after. With trafficking victims, they are also required to prove that they were victims of trafficking in the U.S. in order to get a T-Visa. Often times victims are not aware that they have been victims of trafficking. Most of them do not know the terminology and have little or no human trafficking awareness. How then can they prove something that they do not have knowledge about? It has to be noted that no one has a right to protection without a T-visa. Therefore, victims can go a long time before receiving any help and according to interviewee 2, it is not uncommon that victims, in gathering sufficient evidence and waiting for their cases to come up, have spent more time in jail than their traffickers. Furthermore the TIP-Report says, somewhat contradicting, that, *“just punishing the offender is not enough. Rights that are violated must be restored.”* (2012 TIP-Report, 9)

It seems that the law is definitely more “*weighted towards prosecution.*”, as Interviewee 1 previously stated. Further, Bien-Aimé and Rutman elaborates on the T-Visa, and shows how the laws’ requirements have more shortcomings:

“Excluded are the many victims who are unwilling to cooperate with police investigators or legal proceedings out of fear for their safety or of the safety of their family members. Others, who may suffer from crippling depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress, are psychologically ill-equipped to help law enforcement build cases. Denying assistance to victims who find cooperation with law enforcement difficult or impossible directly contravenes the requirements of the Trafficking Protocol.”

It is baffling how trafficking victims are required to prosecute their traffickers regardless of their mental and psychological state considering how most victims of trafficking have endured unimaginable hardship. Many have been living in constant torture, abuse, fear, manipulation and have had threats towards them and their families if they would even attempt to escape. The laws’ requirements mentioned above highlights how faulty the law is when it comes to regarding the victims in these cases. The importance of restoring a victims life seems like it is secondary to ‘catching the bad guys’.

#### 4.3.2 *Lack of training*

Further in my interviews with interviewee’s 1 and 2, I was informed that 80% of the trafficking cases they work on, are regarding people without a legal immigration status. They go on to emphasize that most U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement workers (ICE) are mostly trained to spot illegal immigrants and not trafficking victims. This also goes hand in hand with what Kim J. Mallie points out when she says that immigration is now an issue of terrorism and homeland security (Mallie 2011). In other words, ICE are not trained to protect but rather to prosecute. What is more, Interviewee's 1 and 2 emphasize further the lack of training by law enforcement officials in New York regarding identifying and the handling of victims of trafficking. They both stated, “*The NYPD does not receive training and it has been an issue for many years.*” Further interviewee 2 explains that when they are training law enforcement officers, the law enforcement officers have responded and said that they “*have had several situations where when they are explained what trafficking is, say that they have*

*had situations like that.* Interviewee 2 further elaborated how “*Some service providers complain that law enforcement officials are driven by statistics and identify/label victims of sex trafficking as sex workers and not victims of trafficking.*” In this instance, Interviewee 2 was referring to VICE, a unit within the NYPD consisting of only 6 people who focus on organized crime, primarily sex work. Interviewee 2 highlights that VICE does not have the appropriate training to spot victims of trafficking and will therefore not consider these women victims of sex-trafficking, but rather sex workers. In addition, Interviewee 2 goes on to explain how the little training that law enforcement officials in New York have received, is mostly training in spotting victims of sex-trafficking. But in regards to labor trafficking the interviewee says that: “*Law enforcement, they don’t understand labor trafficking as much. There is probably more labor trafficking than reported.*”

My findings suggest that the training the law enforcement officials receive, is not sufficient to be serving the victims like it should. This view is also supported by Andrea Ackerman and Christa Stewart who work with trafficking in persons in New York:

“Another challenge is education. It takes much more than a day of training to change the minds and attitudes of the many professionals, particularly law enforcement officials, who come into contact with victims. It takes a commitment from everyone to look anew at the way they and their communities view human trafficking.” (Ackerman and Stuart. 2011, 58)

In addition Interviewee 2 also says about law enforcement officials, “*many are anti-immigrant and are looking at a person from an un-compassionate point of view and don’t see people as victims. It is not the most welcoming environment for immigrants these days.*”

Suffice it to say that there is a desperate need of training in order to accurately identify victims of human trafficking and then in turn apply the new T-Visa that was introduced to protect victims of trafficking. This lack of knowledge and training is a severe hindrance to helping victims of trafficking.

### 4.3.3 TIP report

One of the strategies implemented in the TVPA is the annual Trafficking in Persons report (TIP-report). The annual TIP report is the largest and most comprehensive work that we have on human trafficking. It is conducted by the U.S State Department and consists of general information on trafficking in persons, what new ways of trafficking that are being revealed, in addition to what is being done by nations around the world to fight human trafficking. The largest part of the TIP report consists of reports on every country in the world to monitor the contributions of each individual nation to fight this crime. After the efforts have been analyzed, the nations will be placed into different tiers. The purpose of these tiers are to classify and reveal each nations efforts in the fight against human trafficking. As well, the tier placements are set to put pressure on nations in order to improve their efforts in combatting this crime.

There were originally three tiers, 1, 2 and 3. Tier 1 represents countries that meet the minimum standards that are set by the TVPA. Tier 2 represents countries who do not fully comply with the TVPA's standards, but are making significant efforts to meet those standards. Tier 3 represents countries who do not meet with the TVPA's minimum requirements and also whose governments are making no efforts to meet the standards. If a country is in tier 3, the US will put sanctions towards that country;

“Pursuant to the TVPA, governments of countries on Tier 3 may be subject to certain sanctions, whereby the U.S. government may withhold or withdraw non-humanitarian, non-trade-related foreign assistance. In addition, countries on Tier 3 may not receive funding for government employees' participation in educational and cultural exchange programs. Consistent with the TVPA, governments subject to sanctions would also face U.S. opposition to assistance (except for humanitarian, trade-related, and certain development-related assistance) from international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.” (TVPA)

As conveyed above, these sanctions will put a strain on the relationship between the US and the tier 3 nation. Further, the TVPA sanctions can be waived if the President determines that it

would have a negative affect on US national interests. Two countries that have been classified in tier 3 are Russia and China, which shows that they do not meet the minimum requirements set by the TVPA. This means that human trafficking is a huge and serious problem within these 2 countries and yet Russia and China are not doing anything about fighting it. They are two countries with great power, that are within the UN's security council and are very important business partners with the US. The US has not followed through in enforcing sanctions upon Russia and China, although the US wrote the law of implementing sanctions on tier 3 nations. This says that the US is allowing Russia and China to get away with no concrete action against Trafficking in Persons. Instead, it is believed that the way the US solved this problem was in creating a tier 2 watch list. There are now four tiers, tier 1, 2, 2 watch list, and 3. Tier 2 watch list is basically the same as tier 3, except these nations have made commitments to make further steps to fight human trafficking over the coming year. Their commitments are simply their intentions to improve efforts in fighting this crime. However, it must be noted that at the core, actions are not required in order to get on the tier 2 watch list, but simple paperwork can be an easy escape from US sanctions for tier 3 nations. Therefore, it may seem that it is not a 'coincidence' that the US did not enforce sanctions upon Russia and China, but instead moved them onto the tier 2 watch list, since it would have had a negative affect on the U.S' interests. It is believed by many that a tier 2 watch list was only created so that the U.S' interests would not be jeopardized and that they could maintain and expand their international business relations with e.g. Russia and China. Unfortunately, the reach for more money and power usually take first priority over helping victims of human trafficking. This goes hand in hand with what William Greider says;

One of the striking qualities of the post-Cold War globalization is how easily business and government in the capitalist democracies have abandoned the values they putatively espoused for forty years during the struggle against communism - individual liberties and political legitimacy based on free elections. Concern for human rights, including freedom of assembly for workers wishing to speak for themselves, has been pushed aside by commercial opportunity. Multinationals plunge confidently into new markets, from Vietnam to China, where governments routinely control and abuse their own citizens. (Greider 1997, 37)

Greider is saying that there has been a trend where western nations used to be very much morally aware and condemning of how nations in the east, more specifically communist

nations, were not treating people according to their human rights but only took advantage of them to meet their own needs. But after the iron curtain fell, and communist nations opened up for free trade, it seems as though western nations have become less concerned about human rights and are more occupied in gaining the most profits from these old communist states. Financial ambitions through international trade and global expansion is taking the place of defending human rights. The TVPA is supposed to protect victims of human trafficking, it is shocking then, that the TVPA opens up for holding back sanctions towards nations that do not comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, if it serves American interest. Implicit is the legitimizing to keep trading at the cost of slavery if it serves American interests.

#### **4.4 Supply Chains**

“A fourth “P”—partnership— is integral to the success of any anti-trafficking strategy. Governments, civil society, the private sector, and the public at large working together will lead to the most effective response to modern slavery.” (2012 TIP-Report, 9)

Human trafficking is a global problem and one of the ways that this problem surfaces' is through supply chains. Many cooperations have chosen to expand globally in their search for greater profit. Companies that operate in several countries are often called multinationals. The reason for a company to go abroad for either a service, raw material or labor is most of the time based on financial gains. An example is how many companies who used to have t-shirts made in their own country, e.g. Italy or the U.S. Have outsourced their production to a different country e.g. Bangladesh in order to cut costs. What usually happens is that they would find suppliers in Bangladesh and they will produce the product and then sell the products again to the multinational company for a very low price. What draws the multinational there is that the production costs are so low that, even with lowering the prices of their products in the stores in the U.S. they will still make a larger profit than before.

Nearly every industry in the world has slavery in their supply chains. A supply chain often looks like: Slave - Raw Materials - Manufacturer - Brand - Consumer.

“The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Acts ... named 122 goods from 58 countries that are believed to be produced by forced labor or child labor in violation of international standards.” (Steinberg et al. 2010, 2)

Kevin Bales, estimates the import and export of goods between countries, produced by victims of human trafficking, to be a multi-billion dollar industry (Bales 2000, 471). This is the case because often times the suppliers of large multinational corporations have slavery hidden in their production processes. All major companies have an ethical code of conduct in their business' models, but many do not implement or follow through with ensuring that their businesses are being run ethically i.e. through the source of the production of their goods. Moreover, there are currently no federal laws that demand companies to monitor and ensure that their supply chains are free of slave labor. This allows multinationals to pursue the highest amount of profit without any legal moral obligations.

One real life example of this is about a thirteen year old girl named Clarisse Kambire, who works as a slave picking cotton at a farm in Burkina Faso (Cam Simpson 2011). The farm that she is enslaved to, is a contracted supplier of cotton to a fair trade corporation, Fairtrade International (the largest corporation of its kind), who are in turn suppliers of organic and fair trade cotton to Victoria's Secret, the largest lingerie retailer in the U.S. The cotton that Clarisse picks is labeled fair trade, which is an earned trademark that ensures that suppliers and workers are being paid a proper wage and further prevents the exploitation of workers, especially children. This farm is obviously not adhering to the fair trade rules because it has been discovered that executives within the fair trade organization sign contracts with large corporations, in this case Victoria's Secret, and then hire farmers to produce cotton under the fair trade banner. Fairtrade International offers training to these farmers on the ethics behind fair trade and asks the farmers to adhere to their rules. However, Fairtrade International does not force farmers to undergo their fair trade training, for it is a voluntary training and they neither have people in the fields checking up on the farmers to ensure they are not using slavery in the production of goods. Fairtrade International then receives a huge profit to supply fair trade cotton to large retailers like Victoria's Secret. This is very misleading because consumers want to buy fair trade products with the intention of ensuring slave-free labor in its production processes. This example highlights, that even though Victoria's Secret had negotiated a deal with a 'fair trade' supplier, to ensure that the cotton was organic and fair

trade, slavery was there nonetheless. Because the slaves are at the bottom of this large multinational company's complicated supply chain, it is easy for them to remain hidden without Victoria Secret ever knowing about them.

The intricate network of supply chains and demand has enabled traffickers to hold slaves and save production costs. The slave holders will sit back with a larger profit margin from what Victoria's Secret are paying them and Victoria's Secret will in turn gain huge profits due to such low prices for raw materials and the production of their goods. Kevin Bales says that *"transnational companies, acting through subsidiaries in the developing world, take advantage (often unwittingly) of slave labor to increase dividends to their shareholders."* (Bales 2000). This was the case with Victoria's Secret, they were unaware of slavery going on in their supply chain. One way for multinationals to monitor this, is to employ people that enforces the policy of no slavery and makes sure that their suppliers are following through with the policies. Unfortunately, this was not the case with Victoria's Secret, and it proves that without employees to properly monitor the production of their supply chains, it is very difficult to spot slavery. Due to the complexity of supply chains and the fact that there is no federal law that holds companies accountable in running their supply chains free of slavery, helping victims of human trafficking inherently becomes more difficult.

#### *4.4.1 California Transparency in Supply Chains*

In 2012, California was the first state to implement a law, the *"California Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2010"* (U.S. Department of State 2010), that holds multinationals accountable for their supply chains, to ensure slave free labor. The law was implemented to make sure that large multinational companies who exceeded \$100 million in annual world wide gross receipts, would not have slavery in their supply chains. This law enforces that the corporations fight and eradicate slavery in their supply chains and they are held accountable to the government and the public. Over 3000 companies signed the Act and are now taking active steps towards a slave free supply chain. The California state demands that the companies perform independent audits of themselves and their suppliers, in order to ensure there is no slavery. Further, the companies need to require that their suppliers certify that their products or raw materials comply with the laws of the country they are in. If the companies



fail to adhere to the requirements set by the State, they will face large fines and a law-suit from the California Attorney General.

California is leading the way for how corporations will take social responsibility, through supply chain transparency, to guarantee slave-free business for the future (Fitzpatrick 2013). The California Transparency in Supply Chains Act is a hands-on act that can make sure that there is no slavery in the supply-chains. Finally human rights are not being made a secondary priority but is regarded just as important as making financial strides.

#### **4.5 Service Providers: Hindrances Through Lack of Service**

The following is an interview conducted over Skype with a housing director of a shelter (interviewee 1) in Las Vegas.

The shelter only works with women over the age of 18, this is due to legal matters, and 100% of these women are American, which is a contrast to how trafficking looks in New York. Also according to the statistics of the women that the interviewee works with, the average age of when girls are sex-trafficked are between ages 12-14.

The following are some of the questions and answers from my interview with interviewee 3:

Q: What do you think are some challenges to effectively rehabilitate victims of human trafficking?

A: *We found that there is a lot of different organizations in our community ... but they are scattered throughout the community. And so for a girl to get help, she needs to pick an avenue and run with that and she can not get all the other components that she actually really needs..*

The interviewee here emphasizes that there are several different organizations within the community that are there to serve victims of trafficking. The organizations offer different types of rehabilitation programs but because they are scattered around the community the victims need to pick one type of rehabilitation that they would like to get. That will then be the only area in which they can receive rehabilitation. The interviewee then goes on to explain why this type of practice could be a hindrance to helping victims: *“What we have found is that generally a girl needs holistic healing so she needs everything from mental, physical and*

*psychological healing.*” It is portrayed that the girls that come into their world are in need of more than one type of service. Furthermore, it is pointed out that *“there is a minimal amount of organizations that are able to offer services that are directly what they need.”* because, *“its like building a new human. I know that is very drastic but that is the case. Think about a 12 year old girl who has been stripped of everything and putting her in an 18 year old body. Well she has missed out on 6 crucial years of learning on how to become a woman.”* The service provider then goes on to say that *“not one organization can do it on their own”*. Suffice it to say that helping victims of human trafficking can be hindered because of a lack of organizations that offers services to victims.

Later on in the interview the shelter director informed me that they were not the only organization in their city that had come to the realization that they can not do it on their own, but other service providers had come to the same realization in the need for collective efforts to better help victims of trafficking more efficiently. In a response to this discovery they began gathering all the different service providers in the city into one house, where each organization would run their programs once or twice a week. All the different service providers would then be located at the same place, giving the victims of trafficking multiple options to choose from, thus ensuring a more holistic healing process. The interviewee also informed me that they now offered sessions with licensed counselors and therapists for the mental aspect of healing. For the physical healing they can now offer sessions with nutritionists, doctors and dentists. In regards to the psychological healing, they now offer art-therapy, dance-therapy and even aquatics. On top of this they provide legal help by offering meetings with lawyers and advocates that can speak about their rights. They receive work training and other types of practical help as well. The interviewee then mentioned that work placement is one of the most important aspects to helping the victims because that will help them in entering back into society and living a somewhat normal life. The victims no longer have to choose only one road to recovery but now have the opportunity to receive a more holistic healing that will help re-build their life and integrate them into society again.

Although this is a testimony of what can go right, I was also informed during my interview with interviewee 2 (a lawyer in New York), that in 2009 there was only 26 beds in the whole country that were set up for victims of trafficking that had escaped their enslavement. It was elaborated how because of the lack of places for help, many victims were sent to a

rehabilitation home for victims of domestic violence. As we have seen in the instances above, the needs that victims of trafficking have are very complex and unique, and putting them in the same category as victims of domestic violence can therefore work against its purpose. When I asked the shelter director (interviewee 3) how many victims they could house, the answer was only 4 people at a time. They had a rolling intake, which means that as soon as one bed was free there would be a new person in the shelter. The victim did not spend their whole rehabilitation process at the shelter, but after three months they would be moved to a different home in a different state and different city. The shelter director believed that at the three month mark it was a “*fight or flight*” point, whereby the victims would have decided if they would like to keep fighting or go back to their pimps. Going back to their pimps seems like an unlikely choice for us, but for these women who did not have much life skills, no work and seemingly a very tough future ahead, going back to their pimp could for some of the girls seem like a reasonable option.

What is more, most of these organizations operate on funding collected through donations. It is not a very predictable way to run an organization and funding is often hard to get, especially if you are trying to remain a low profile, like many shelters are. A few months after I conducted my interview with the shelter director I received news that the shelter had closed down because of a lack of funding. Unfortunately, this means that victims of human trafficking now have four less beds to sleep in on their way to recovery. Funding and partnerships are key relationships in order to help victims of trafficking, but without this subject being a top agenda for politicians, it will never get the right funding. According to the State Department; “*partnership— is integral to the success of any anti-trafficking strategy. Governments, civil society, the private sector, and the public at large working together will lead to the most effective response to modern slavery.*” (2012 TIP-Report, 9). If grass-root organizations, like the shelter director I interviewed represents, do not receive funding from the government, the road to recovery looks long and painful for the victims of human trafficking and they will not be able to get the help that they need.



## 5. Conclusion

This research project has been a journey of new discoveries. I started with a limited knowledge of human trafficking and what it looks like in all its forms. I never knew how extensive and massive this modern day slavery is and how closely connected, we as a society, are to the lives of slaves. As I discovered the horrendous circumstances that multitudes of people are living in, I wanted to find out how come these people are not receiving any help and how come slavery is thriving today in modern day society. What fueled me to undergo this research was my desire to see justice done and slaves find their freedom and receive the help that they need. Conducting this research, however, was not an easy task. Victims of human trafficking are often referred to as a hidden part of the population. My intention has been to spread awareness about human trafficking and more specifically reveal some of the major hindrances that are in the way for us in helping the victims of human trafficking. With only 50 000 (Committee on Foreign Affairs House of Representatives 2011, 2) slaves being helped out of their enslavement in the year 2009 and having only 26 available beds in all of the U.S. in 2010, this shows that there is not enough being done to help these victims when 27 million slaves are across the globe today.

I believe the research I have conducted will give a new perspective to the topic of human trafficking. For I have found that there is not a lot of academic research done on the hindrances of helping victims of human trafficking, which I believe to be pivotal in our fight against this monstrous crime. Throughout my time spent in NYC in the anti-trafficking arena, interning with the ISJC and sitting in UN panels, I have been exposed to the many issues surrounding human trafficking. Being able to spend time around influential people who are devoted to helping victims of slavery, really helped teach and shape my knowledge of this global epidemic and also pointed me in the right direction in how to conduct my research and what to research. I was able to converse with activists and service providers who work in helping victims of slavery and see the many hindrances in helping victims firsthand. My time on the field in my internship, taking notes in UN panels, in conversation with grass-root activists, conversing with NGOs and interviewing lawyers and a shelter director, were all pivotal in guiding me to best answer my thesis question, ‘What may be some hindrances in helping victims of human trafficking?’.

I started off my research while living in New York and being submerged in the the anti-human trafficking arena. There I gathered information and data regarding human trafficking in New York, the U.S. as a whole and also trafficking on a global level. I have chosen to use globalization theory to support me throughout my research and it has been a strong foundation. It has shown that the world is interconnected in so many levels through the collapse of time and space. Never has it been easier to expand business internationally through free trade and open borders and with constant new technologies. Never has it been easier to move from one country to the next. While international trade and global expansion has been booming for the last 50 years, the difference between the North and South has also increased. The Northern countries are continually increasing in their financial position and are leading in the global marketplace, while the South are struggling in poverty, corruption and failing political systems. This inequality is the major downside of globalization and traffickers are exploiting this through the trade and enslavement of human beings. Also through this economic divide, many people living in poverty are in desperate situations and are migrating to an opportune country in search of a better life, even if it means entering in illegally.

Migration and human trafficking are very much connected and therefore international migration has had an affect on migration laws, particularly the U.S. The TVPA, the U.S's most updated act on how to fight human trafficking, has sections on how to deal with the increased number of victims of human trafficking. Within one of the sections is the T-Visa, which is designed to protect victims of human trafficking that originate from other countries but are found on American soil because they were trafficked in. The T-Visa was implemented in 2000 and came with a cap of allowing 10 000 trafficked victims to receive their temporary residency visa (T-Visa) per year. However in the last 10 years, only as little as 2500 people have received this visa. This may be because there are strict requirements in order to obtain such a visa, one of them being that the victim has to partake in the prosecution process of their traffickers and if they fail to comply, then they have no right to receive protection from the U.S. government. This is a hindrance in helping the victims and should not be a mandatory requirement because it is a traumatic experience for the victim, as it puts them in danger in having to face their trafficker through prosecution. Victims live under constant threat, abuse and fear for their lives and their family's lives from their trafficker, who threatens them if they were to ever escape. This is a common way that traffickers control their slaves. Another aspect

of the law in order to obtain a T-Visa, is that the trafficking victims have to prove that they are in severe danger of being trafficked again if they are to be returned to their country of origin. As far as I know, these are the only victims of any type that have to prove that they are in the danger zone of a crime being committed against themselves in order to receive help. I believe that the law surrounding the T-Visa is not achieving its purpose when considering that there is such a low amount of visas being handed out and victims being helped. It is clear to me that the law has a prosecution centered approach and that it is not victims centered.

Further, the TVPA also consists of a trafficking in persons report (TIP). It is an annual report conducted by the Department of State and its main function is to analyze all the countries in the world and their efforts in combatting human trafficking. Countries are set into tier placements, which is a measure of their efforts in fighting trafficking in persons. These tiers put pressure on nations and hold them accountable to the U.S. and if a nation falls into the bottom tier they will receive sanctions from the U.S. There used to be three tiers that countries were placed into, tier 1 being a country that fully complies with the TVPA's anti-trafficking standards to tier 3 being a nation that does not comply with the TVPA's standards and make no efforts to do so. It is believed that the TIP report has not served its purpose because the U.S. has not followed through with their promised sanctions towards tier 3 nations, but instead the U.S. has created a fourth tier, the 2 watch list. In the tier 2 watch list sanctions do not apply and nations that are of political and economic benefit to the U.S. have been placed there. This shows that again, human trafficking does not get the appropriate attention and that international relations and U.S' interests are more important than looking after basic human rights. It is vital that the U.S. government gives human trafficking the appropriate attention and treat this crime as serious as their legislations describe. Their lack of stewardship is a major hindrance in helping victims of trafficking. If the U.S government and its laws does not raise the bar in setting a framework to protect and fight slavery, then this lack of care will be imitated and have a rippling effect down to a local level.

“Slavery can only be abolished by raising the character of the people who compose the nation; and that can be done only by showing them a higher one.” (Maria Weston Chapman, 1855)

Further, there is a lack of training of law enforcement officials. In my interviews with lawyers, this issue came up several times. It is clear that law enforcement officials do not receive enough training to help and rescue victims of human trafficking. Because of this lack of training, law enforcement officials are unable to identify victims of trafficking and are often unaware of this crime. Failing to identify victims of trafficking is a major hindrance, for if they are not recognized as a victim, how then can they be helped? Moreover, victims are many times mistaken as criminals and will be treated as one. Clearly, it is not enough to hear about human trafficking only a few times, but law enforcement officials have to receive continual training. Criminals will continue to be innovative in the way they exploit slaves, and it is the law enforcement officials' duties to make sure that they are keeping up and not falling behind.

Private service providers play a huge role in helping victims of human trafficking. They often serve as the first point of contact for victims of trafficking and help the victims with their immediate needs, services ranging from psychological help to basic survival and hygienic skills. They also play a pivotal role in helping victims integrate back into society. However, there are a few things that hinder the service providers in being more effective in their efforts. A major hindrance is the lack of funding which puts a limit on the services they can provide. For example, the Nevada shelter director had informed me, only a few months after I had conducted my interview with them, that the shelter had to shut down due to a lack of funding. Another limitation with service providers, is in their lack of working together with one another in a joint effort to help victims of trafficking.

One final hindrance in helping victims of trafficking is due to slavery that can often be found in the supply chains of large multinationals. Nearly every industry in the world has slavery found in it. This is commonly due to the search for the cheapest labor available, for many companies search far and wide to find the cheapest raw materials and lowest production costs of their goods, which can often result in slaves in their production processes. This can often take place because companies hire subcontractors, who may also act as a slaveholder, and underneath the slaveholder are forced laborers. The slaves are then at the bottom of the supply chains in producing goods and/or gathering raw materials which then flow up to the top of supply chain, to us the consumers who unknowingly purchase these slave-tainted goods. An example may be in the chocolates or clothing that we buy. There are no laws that regulate and monitor the supply chains of companies to ensure there are no traces of slavery, other than in



California, and because of this, slavery still persists in many supply chains. It will be more difficult to help victims of trafficking whilst large multinationals keep on taking no responsibility for their supply chains and the processes in which their products are obtained. We the consumers, along with businesses, are intentionally/unintentionally contributing and endorsing these crimes through the purchase of goods and products that have been tainted in the supply chain (Steinberg. et al) The California Transparency Supply Chain Act is a leading example of how corporations should have supply chain transparency and be held accountable both to the government and the public/consumers, in removing and preventing all traces of slavery.

## **5.1 Further Studies**

I believe I have found very important hindrances to helping victims of human trafficking. However, I am aware that these are just some of many reasons that hinder us in helping victims. If I were to undergo further research on the topic, the following areas would be interesting to investigate;

What are the political reasons why victims of trafficking are not receiving the T-Visa? Why are so few T-Visas given out? What adjustments need to be made to make the T-Visa victims centered?

What rehabilitation programs work and which ones do not? How can we improve rehabilitation programs to ensure former slaves get holistic healing and enter back into society?

Why are there so few beds available for victims of human trafficking in the U.S.?

How can we get more service providers to collaborate and join forces?

Why has the California Transparency Supply Chain Act not been implemented on a federal level?

“We must ask ourselves: Are we willing to live in a world with slaves? If not, we are obligated to take responsibility for things connected to us, even when far away...Not to take action is simply to give up and let other people jerk the strings that tie us to slavery. ..If there is one fundamental violation of our humanity we cannot allow, it is slavery. If there is one basic truth that virtually every human being can agree on, it is that slavery must end. What good is our economic and political power, if we can't use it to free slaves? If we can't choose to stop slavery, how can we say that we are free?” (Bales 1999, 262)



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